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LACK OF "LEARNING."

**PRESIDENTS WHO WERE NOT EDU-
CATED IN SCHOOLS.**

**Andrew Jackson Could Not Spell Cor-
rectly—Few Presidents Have Been Col-
lege Bred, but All Were Well Informed.
The President's Bible.**

[Special Correspondence.]
WASHINGTON, March 8.—A writer on
oratory recently called attention to the
fact that Garfield was the best educated
of the presidents. Now that we have a
new president, the statement still holds
good. But I don't believe Garfield was
any better informed than President Mc-
Kinley. Few of our presidents have been
college bred, though almost all have
been men of good education. Andrew
Jackson was illiterate—almost as illiter-
ate as he was positive—and thereby
hangs a tale which has come down to
me from one old department clerk
through another. It hinges on the fact
that the president in early days not only
signed land patents, but passed on the
accounts of officers in the consular ser-
vice.

Susceptible to Change.
This old clerk, whose name was Mus-
tin, had charge of the accounts of the
consular officers. To him came one day
a consul who had arrived in the morning
and was anxious to get away from Wash-
ington on the afternoon of the same
day. He had his accounts made up, and
he handed them to Mustin, with the
statement that the president had seen
them and said they were all right. There
was no indorsement on them, and Mr.
Mustin declined to audit and pass them
to the treasurer until the president's
name was written across the back. The
consul hurried to the White House,
much annoyed. Apparently the presi-
dent was quite as much put out by the
necessity of handling so much red tape,
for he wrote across the back of the ac-
count: "Correct. Andrew Jackson. Let
this fiat be obeyed." But unfortunately
he wrote flat with an "o" instead of an
"a," so the injunction lost much of its
dignity and force. The "flat" of An-
drew Jackson is on the files of the treas-
ury department to this day.

Mustin was hardly more than a pen-
sioner toward the close of the war. He
came to the office every day, but he did
very little work. He had positive opin-
ions on politics though, and he was a
strong Lincoln man. It happened that
most of the people in the office with
him were opposed to Lincoln's renomina-
tion, and one of them, taking the old
man aside, said: "I wouldn't be so pos-



MRS. MCKINLEY ACCEPTING THE BIBLE.
itive in my expressions of opinion if I
were you, Mr. Mustin. The administra-
tion may change, you know."
"It can't change any quicker than I
can," said the old gentleman cheerfully.
Fortunately he was not compelled to
change, but no doubt he could have
adapted his political views to any emer-
gency. That has been the way of his
kind.

The supreme court people were much
amused when the present Kansas state
government took office to read that the
new state officers objected to being
sworn in by the old method of kissing
the Bible because they believed the cus-
tom spreads disease through disease
germs transmitted from one person to
the book and from the book to the next
person whose lips touch it. The disease
germ has become a bugaboo in medical
circles, and every time some one has
blood poisoning from contact with a
roller towel or with paper money—like
the bookmaker in New York who died
because of the habit of holding money in
his mouth—the germ is brought out and
paraded for public entertainment.

The President's Bible.
Usually the book used at the inaugu-
ration of a president has been one pur-
chased for the occasion by Clerk Mc-
Kenny of the supreme court. Mr. Mc-
Kenny is a figure in the inauguration
ceremony, though a modest one. He
hands to the chief justice of the supreme
court at the proper moment the Bible on
which the president elect is to take the
oath of office. Mr. McKenny talks inter-
estingly about the Bibles on which the
presidents have taken the oath. He has
officiated at every inauguration since
that of General Grant. He was not clerk
of the court at the time of Hayes' in-
auguration, but he was selected to pre-
sent the Bible on which Mr. Hayes was
sworn in to Mrs. Hayes in accordance
with the invariable custom to present
the volume to some member of the presi-
dent's family as a souvenir.

Mr. McKenny presented the Bible to
Mrs. Hayes in one of the parlors of the
White House. As was customary, he
had marked as the president's lips
touched the book the page and the pas-
sage. Mrs. Hayes, when he told her
this, said, "I hope Mr. McKenny will
be kind enough to read the verses
aloud." Several members of the presi-
dent's family were present. Mr. Mc-
Kenny opened the book at the place he
had marked and read, "And they op-
press me—yea, they persecute me—but
in the name of the Almighty God will I
destroy them." Mrs. Hayes smiled and
said: "Oh, no! I don't believe that any-

body will be destroyed." Then she took
the Bible, asking Mr. McKenny to con-
vey to Mr. Middleton, the clerk of the
court, whom he represented, her warm-
est thanks.

The Bible on which President Elect
Grant took the oath was presented to
Mrs. Grant. The Garfield Bible was
presented to Mrs. Garfield by Mrs. Mc-
Kenny March 5, 1881. The Arthur Bi-
ble was presented to Miss Nellie Arthur.

Up to the time of the first inaugura-
tion of Mr. Cleveland it had been the
custom of the clerk of the supreme court
from time without record to buy a new
Bible for the inauguration. Mr. Mc-
Kenny bought a Bible for the Cleveland
inauguration. It was a large octavo,
morocco bound, and it came wrapped in
tissue and incased in a stout pasteboard
box. There was no chance of germs or
microbes getting at its pages. Therefore
it was not for sanitary reasons that the
president elect refused to use it. Mr.
Cleveland is not credited with being a
sentimental man, but he has a vein of
sentiment in him, and it came to the
surface when he sent word to Clerk Mc-
Kenny that he wanted to take the oath
on a shabby little Bible which his moth-
er had given him when he started out to
shape his own career. Mr. McKenny is
a bit of a sentimentalist himself. So
when President Elect Harrison was to
be sworn in he would not use the Bible
he had bought for the Cleveland inaugu-
ration, but purchased a brand new book,
leaving the Cleveland Bible to become
one of the relics of the supreme court
files. President McKinley was sworn in,
as you know, on a Bible which was the
gift of the African M. E. church.

The Fertile Promoter.
The new secretary of war, General
Alger, told me the other day that he
had lost \$45,000 within the last year
through the unfortunate investments of
a man whose business he capitalized. If
General Alger is disposed to use his
money as freely for the relief of indigent
congressmen who have "sure things"
needing a little capital, he will find op-
portunities enough. Washington is one
of the best fields for the promoter in the
whole United States. Senators and
members of the house who are impetu-
ous have no conscience about going to
their wealthier colleagues and asking
them to subscribe to the stock of ven-
tures in which they are interested. The
people they have "struck" most often
are Brice of Ohio and Cameron of Penn-
sylvania, and there was a wall from the
poverty stricken when these two "good
things" left congress on the 4th of
March. Next to these two rich eastern-
ers the wealthy Californians have been
visited by the promoters most frequent-
ly. Men like Stewart and Jones of Ne-
vada are known as good speculators.
Stewart is not a "producer," although
he is always ready to go into anything
involving a risk.

Some time ago a member of the house
was trying to get capital to establish a
factory to make a new explosive. This
sort of thing appeals to men in congress
because they know the government can
be persuaded to buy large quantities of
an explosive if it is good and their in-
fluence with the appropriations commit-
tees of congress will be of great value
in getting the matter through. The ex-
plosive in which the Massachusetts man
was interested was very remarkable, to
judge from the tests made, and the
member had little difficulty in interest-
ing a number of capitalists in it. To-
ward the end of the session of congress
he called on one of the California sena-
tors and urged him to subscribe for some
stock. He commended the explosive es-
pecially for use in mines.

"I'm not a practical miner," said the
senator, "but here are two members of
the house, B. and C., who are. Perhaps
you can interest them."

How It Worked.
The two members, who were sitting
at the other side of the room, were called
over, and the virtues of the explosive
were explained to them.

"If it will do all you claim for it,"
said B., "I will not only subscribe, but
work up an interest for you in Califor-
nia. But I want to ask about one thing.
Many of these explosives have been in-
vented. All of them go off with a great
noise and display enormous force. But
the difficulty with all of them is this: In
exploding they create a gas which is
dangerous to life, and this gas so fills
the mine that work has to be suspended,
sometimes for a day or two, until the
gas can be pumped out."

"That is all right," said D., who had
the explosive in charge. "I inhale the
gas from this explosive every day." And
to prove what he said he put some of
the explosive on the register in the
floor, and leaning over seemed to inhale
the fumes.

"Let me inhale it," said C. More of
the explosive was put on the register,
and C. took a good lungful.

"It seems harmless," he said. There-
upon an appointment was made for the
following morning.

Toward noon of the following day C.
came into the office of the senator. His
face was yellow, his hands shook, his
legs gave way under him at every third
step.

"Can you tell me what happened yester-
day?" he said to the senator's clerk.
"I have a dim recollection of being here,
but I remember nothing else except my
dreams. My wife tells me I have been
out of my head, and I have seen the
most wonderful things I ever saw in my
life. What happened? Did I have a
fight? Did any one hit me on the head?"

"Well, I can't remember that any-
thing like that happened," said the
clerk. "You were here with B. and D.
of Massachusetts, and D. showed you
an explosive. I believe you both inhaled
some of it."

"That's it! That's it!" cried C., do-
ing a war dance around the room. "It
was that explosive. Where is D.? Where
can I lay my hands on him? I'll skin
him alive!"

Fortunately D. did not keep the en-
gagement, so his skin is still intact. C.
is back in California, but he is not or-
ganizing a company to exploit the D.
explosive.

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Probate Order.
STATE OF MICHIGAN, }
COUNTY OF SHIAWASSEE. }
At a session of the Probate Court for the
county of Shiawassee, held at the Probate Of-
fice, in the city of Corunna, on the 15th day of
February, in the year one thousand eight hun-
dred and ninety-seven.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of John T. Cooper,
deceased.

John W. Dewey, administrator of said estate,
having rendered to this court his final account.
It is ordered, that the 15th day of March next,
at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate
office, be appointed for examining and allowing
said account.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this
order be published three successive weeks
previous to said day of hearing, in THE TIMES,
a newspaper printed and circulating in said
county of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH,
Judge of Probate.

By KATHERINE E. KELSEY,
Probate Register.

ANN ARBOR
RAILWAY.

Map showing routes to various cities including Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Toledo.

TIME TABLE IN EFFECT OCT. 25, '96
Trains leave Owosso as follows:

| NORTH. | SOUTH. |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Daily except Sunday? | Daily except Sunday |
| No. 1, 10:05 a. m. | No. 2, 9:00 a. m. |
| No. 3, 7:30 p. m. | No. 4, 5:45 p. m. |

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